

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /067 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7174

T.O.11652: GDS

TAGS:, PINT, SP

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF "POWER STRUGGLE IN PCE"

1. MADRID WEEKLY "GUADIAN" SPECULATED SEPT 16 ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION "OBTAINED IN MOSCOW BY RELIABLE DIPLO-MATIC SOURCES", THAT MOSCOW IS COOKING UP A PCE LEADERSHIP SHUFFLE THAT WOULD HAVE WORKERS COMMISSIONS CHIEF MARCELINO CAMACHO SUCCEEDING DOLORES IBARRURI AS PARTY PRESIDENT. WITH THE LATTER BEING DESIGNATED "HONORARY PRESIDENT ". ACCORDING TO "GUADIANA'S SOURCES, CAMACHO'S PROMOTION WOULD BE DICTATED BY CONCERN OVER THE PCE'S DETERIORATING  
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IMAGE WITH LABOR," AND THE CORRESPONDING DESIRE TO PLACE

A "MANUAL LABORER IN AN IMPORTANT PARTY POSITION".

"GUADIANA" CONTINUES THAT MOSCOW CONSIDERED REPLACING SEC GEN CARRILO WITH CAMACHO, BUT DECIDED THAT NEITHER CAMACHO NOR ANY OTHER PCE LEADER WITH A WORKING CLASS BACKGROUND HAD THE POLITICAL CAPACITY TO REPLACE CARRILO.

2. THIS RATHER PICTURESQUE STORY WAS PICKED UP AND REPLAYED BY A NUMBER OF MADRID PAPERS, AND IT HAS NOW BEEN EMBELLISHED BY REPEATED AFTERNOON DAILY "INFORMACIONES", WHICH YESTERDAY REPEATED THE "GUADIANA" STORY UNDER THE LEAD: "IN POLITICAL CIRCLES IT IS BELIEVED THAT A POWER STRUGGLE HAS BROKEN OUT WITHIN THE PCE BETWEEN EUROCOMMUNISTS AND PRO SOVIET ELEMENTS. "INFORMACIONES" ADDS ALMOST NOTHING TO THE "GUADIANA" STORY TO MERIT SUCH A LEAD, ALTHOUGH IT SPECULATES THAT THE PCE, DURING ITS RECENT ROME CONGRESS, DEBATED A LEADERSHIP CHANGE IN ORDER TO REMOVE THOSE TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE CIVIL WAR (I.E. IBARRURI, AND CARRILLO.) "INFORMACIONES" ADDS THAT, IN ADDITION TO CAMACHO FELLOW WORKERS COMMISSIONS LEADERS NICOLAS SATORIUS HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR IBARRURI.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING, OTHER THAN THOSE STORY TO INDICATE THAT A LEADERSHIP CHANGE IN THE PCE IS IMMINENT OR THAT A POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN FACTIONS IS UNDER WAY. "GUADIANA'S STORY APPEARS GREATLY TO EXAGGERATE MOSCOW'S INFLUENCE ON THE PCE LEADERSHIP AND HAS SOME OF THE APPEARANCE OF BLACK PROPAGANDA, GENERATED BY CAMACHO'S EXTENDED VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND HIS SYCOPHANTIC REMARKS TO THE SOVIET PRESS. HOWEVER THIS STORY COULD TAKE A LIFE OF ITS OWN. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE SINCE THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF LOGIC TO "INFORMACIONES" CONTENTION THAT THE PCE IS DISCOMFITED BY THE IDENTIFICATION OF IBARRURI AND CARRILLO WITH THE CIVIL WAR, WHICH LENDS SOME SEMBLANCE OF BELIEVABILITY TO WHAT IS A UNSUBSTANTIATED AND RATHER ENTERTAINING POLITICAL RUMOR AT THIS POINT.

4. THERE HAS BEEN PERIODIC SPECULATION FOR SOME TIME THAT BOTH CARRILLO, BECAUSE OF HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CIVIL WAR, AND IBARRURI, DUE TO HER IDENTIFICATION WITH THE WAR AND ADVANCED AGE, MIGHT BE REPLACED. IN CARRILLO'S CASE, THIS SPECULATION HAS SHARPENED THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASS MURDER OF PRISONERS AT PARACUELLOS, NEAR MADRID DURING THE CIVIL WAR (REFTEL). IN ADDITION TO CAMACHO AND SATORIUS, A NUMBER OF OTHERS HAVE BEEN BRUIED ABOUT AS POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS FOR ONE OR BOTH THE CURRENT LEADERS. THESE INCLUDE PARTY IDEOLOGIST MANUEL AZCARATE,

ECONOMIST RAMON TAMAMES, WORKERS COMMISSIONS FIGURE  
SIMON SANCHEZ MONTERO, AND PARTY NOTABLE SANTIAGO  
ALVAREZ.  
STABLER

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**To:** STATE  
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